



As reprinted from 02/03/2009

Arizona court overturns local government budget payment

PHOENIX — The Arizona Supreme Court on Tuesday overturned a budget provision requiring local governments to pay nearly \$30 million to help balance the current state budget.

The ruling came on a special-action lawsuit filed directly with the state high court by the League of Arizona Cities and Towns.

The provision was included in the budget that was approved by the Legislature last June at the behest of former Gov. Janet Napolitano.

The court agreed with the cities that the provision was unconstitutional on grounds that it was not an appropriation that could be included in the budget legislation.

A lawyer for the state argued that the provision merely reclaimed some of the money that the state regularly distributes to local governments.

The Associated Press